

Opening Statement at the Effective Development Co-operation Summit

His Excellency Mr. Ignazio Cassis, President of the Swiss Confederation

His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame: President of the Republic of Rwanda

Her Excellency Ms. Maia Sandu, President of Moldova

Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed Deputy Secretary General – United Nations

Ms. Priyanthi Fernando, Executive Director, International Women Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific

Honorable Minister, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my Honor to be among you today to give opening address at this important meeting of Effective Development Co-operation Summit

The ongoing pandemic and global conflicts are worsening poverty, undermining growth, and jeopardizing the prospects of a resilient and inclusive development for those most left behind. Poor Countries are struggling with falling government revenues; increasing debt vulnerabilities; and dropping literacy rates. At the household level after years of decline, hunger is on the rise returning to levels we left a decade ago. The livelihoods of the poor and most vulnerable are affected the most. In the absence of decisive policy action, extreme weather shocks could exacerbate growth and demographic challenges, and could lead to an additional 100 million extreme poor by 2030. At the same time post COVID-19 recovery efforts is driving up public borrowing and reducing poverty reduction expenditure priorities in poor countries. In other words, many of the poorest in poor countries are being left behind.

Your Excellencies Honorable Minister, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

These challenges have not been matched by a commensurate increase in available Official Development Assistance (ODA). There are indications that official financial flows to developing countries have experienced a small decline or stagnated at best since the beginning of the pandemic due to tight fiscal conditions in rich countries.

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As a global platform It is important that we are self-critical of ourselves. We must be able to admit where we have not made progress, and congratulate ourselves where we have. We have made great progress in applying the whole of society approach in our work. We now have the foundations actively involved and playing their role in the realization of Development Effectiveness for those most left behind and the local and national level. At the same time, we have made great progress in bringing the private sector in the ambit of development effectiveness. The Kampala Principles assessment metrics remain one of the most important tools for holding private sector accountable for their development effectiveness. I want congratulate the leadership of the GPEDC for continuously challenging itself into making this a truly unique platform..., the only one of its kind where everybody is invited to the table on an equal footing.

At the same time we know that evidence on the ground shows that a lot more is needed to realize the Busan partnership Principles. The efforts to resolve the unfinished business of Paris and Accra is quickly losing momentum and much more progress is needed on fulfilling democratic ownership, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and accountability. Civic spaces at the country-level continue to shrink, and enabling environment for Civil Society Organizations, parliament, foundations and trade unions to fulfill their effectiveness mandate remains elusive in most countries. There are reports of continued

physical attacks and politically motivated curtailment of their spaces of work and mandate. These steps do not build trust but erode it.

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This summit therefore comes at a critical juncture. Unlike the past where the focus was on global monitoring progress report, it seeks to address the basic important element in any partnership. **Trust.** However, Trust requires that we are Reliable, honest with each other, have strong political Good Will, and are open and frank with each other. I hope that in the next 3 days we will prove that we are trust worthy not only to here in the room and elsewhere in the world but also to millions of lives we seek to impact.

Guided by objectives of promotion of development and poverty reduction, Development Co-operation has the potential of translating emerging development challenges and priorities into better and lasting results for those most left behind.

Parliament, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Foundations, trade unions local authorities and private sector have a comprehensive and complex mandate in development. We need to be deliberate in how we include them in different ways, both at local and national ecosystem of development. In this regard creating enabling environment will be critical. We must be ready to reform the way we engage, build partnership, account to each other and realise results. Our institutions, processes and policies but be ready for the new form of partnership built on trust.

At the same time, we must also invest in rebuilding the trust that has waned over the years due our own acts of commission or omission. As non Executive Actors, we remain committed to this course and hope that our invested trust will results into better enabling conditions to realize our own effectiveness.

I know It will not happen automatically, but with deliberate and targeted actions we can put the GPEDC platform in a new trajectory that will restore trust of hundreds of millions of poor people who depend in our change of behavior for their sustained livelihood. We have no option but to start a new path and renewed trust.

**Your Excellencies Honorable Minister, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues and Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

For this to happened key steps are necessary

1. We must commit to behavior change, consistent with the commitments already made since the Era of Paris Declaration
2. We must take action to address new and emerging challenges including climate change highlighted in the outcome document and reaffirm the integrity of the effectiveness agenda centered on the principles of democratic ownership, inclusive partnership, focus on results, transparency and mutual accountability,
3. We must commit to and sign up for the new monitoring framework.
4. Create genuine multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnership at the global, regional, and country levels to secure country action for domestication of the Effective Development Co-operation
5. Provide enabling environment to all the non-Executive Constituencies, parliament, CSOs, Private Sector, Trade Unions and local authority to realize their own effectiveness

It is important to note that the trust we seek to build is not for ourselves but to restore the trust our people have lost in the effectiveness of development co-operation. We must put people back at the center of development. We must build sustainable partnerships with them and we

must rely on them to tell us how we did and not us parting ourselves in the back on imagined successes. That is our challenge for the next three days.

I thank you